V. *Some Obſervations upon Vipers; on occaſion of the foregoing Relation.* By C. J. Sprengell, *M. D. F. R. S.*

AT *Milan* I found a Viper-Catcher, who ſeldom was without 60, or more, Vipers alive, kept together in a back Room open at the Top; he had them from all Parts of *Italy*, and ſold them dead or alive, according to the Uſes they were deſigned for. He having got one day a female Viper big with young, gave me notice to ſee her manage her Prey; whereupon we catch'd ſome Mice, and throwing them in one at a Time, amongſt all that Number of Vipers, (which were rather above 60) there was none of them, that in the leaſt concern'd himſelf about the Mouſe, till the laſt mention'd pregnant female Viper and the Mouſe interchanged Eyes; whereupon the Mouſe ſtartled, but the Viper rais'd her Head, and turn'd her Neck into a perfect Bow, the Mouth open, the Tongue playing, the Eyes all on Fire, and the Tail erect. The Mouſe ſeem'd ſoon recover'd of his Fright, would take a Turn or two, and ſometimes more, pretty briſkly, round the Viper, and giving now and then a Squeak, would run with a great deal of Swiftneſs into the Chops of the Viper, where it gradually ſunk down the Gullet. All this while the Viper never ſtirr'd out of its Place, but lay in a Ring.

It is to be obſerv'd, that no Viper will feed, when confin'd, except a female Viper impregnated.

The ſame I ſaw at *Bruſſels*, where a Soldier had catch'd a large Viper big with young. The Houſe, where I and ſome of my Companions lodged, was near the Fiſh-Market, where my Landlord had a Sow, and five ſmall Pigs of nine or ten Days old. We got one of the Pigs, which we caus'd to be bit by the Viper in the Tail, and in four Minutes time chopp'd off the Tail, the Pig appearing to be ſick and dizzy, and the remaining part of the Tail being ſwell'd; but I believe the bleeding ſav'd it, for the next Morning it was well again. The ſame happen'd to another Pig, which we had got bit in the fore Foot, and ſtaying ſeven Minutes after the Bite, cut off his Leg about two Inches above the Bite. After theſe two, we took the other three, and had them bit in ſeveral Places, whereof two died that Night, and the third recover'd, we having given it, about five or ſix Minutes afterwards, ten Grains of Emetic Tartar.

This I try'd afterwards upon Dogs bit by Vipers, and I found that they all recover'd upon the Emetic Tartar.